

I also rise today to remember the 246 Filipino citizens who have lost their lives as a result of flooding caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana. This destructive storm rampaged through the northern Philippines, leaving tens of thousands of people displaced.

Many of my constituents have family members who were affected by this storm. I commend the Filipino community of Guam, who were the first to mobilize our larger Guam community to quickly come together to collect relief items and provide monetary contributions to those affected by this natural disaster.

I commend the efforts of those who are helping to meet the needs of the people of American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, and the Philippines as they work toward a full recovery from these disasters.

RURAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in the current health care debate we are overlooking access to health care in rural America. For families living in rural towns all across Kansas and America, access to quality health care is often the primary concern. In fact, right now, less than 10 percent of our physicians serve 25 percent of our population.

In order to improve access to quality medical care, we need to start with three basic reforms. First, we should reimburse providers for the full cost of care so rural medical professionals can do their job of curing and healing. Second, we should repay enormous debt incurred through medical school so more young people enter general practice and practice care in smaller towns. Finally, the Federal Government should stop picking winners and losers with its coverage decisions in urban versus rural health care, because in every case, rural health care gets shortchanged.

We should focus on reforms needed to solve the health care crisis in rural Kansas and in rural America, and, in doing so, we will improve health care delivery to the rest of the Nation. Without addressing these exploding costs or recognition that we need to focus on training new practitioners, the access problems plaguing rural America will only get worse.

THE WAY WE GET BY

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. I rise today to recognize a very important film called "The Way We Get By." It features dedicated and patriotic Mainers who make sure no soldier passes through Bangor, Maine, without receiving a handshake and a heartfelt thank you.

As part of the President's United We Serve initiative, the USO, Operation Homefront, and HandsOn Network are presenting the film at the Capitol Visitor Center tonight as part of their combined efforts to rally support for volunteer activities for our military families.

Dr. Jill Biden will introduce the film, and Maine filmmakers Aron Gaudet and Gita Pullapilly, along with several of the troop greeters, will discuss the film after the screening. "The Way We Get By" has been inspiring audiences across the country and will air on PBS on Veterans Day.

We Mainers are proud of our troop greeters and their profound contribution to our many soldiers.

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IRAN IS GOING NUCLEAR

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Iran's rogue regime is getting closer and closer to going nuclear. And if we want to get their attention, we have to do something real: sanction Iran's gasoline imports. That's where Ahmadinejad is vulnerable. The tiny tyrant doesn't have enough oil refineries, and Iran imports 40 percent of its gasoline. We must make it pretty painful to be Iran's gasoline supplier. If we're waiting on the United Nations, that's not going to happen. Russia and Iran are just too cozy, and Russia will probably veto any sanctions. Also, Ahmadinejad's twin terrorist tyrant Moammar Qaddafi and the Libyans have a temporary seat on the Security Council. Libya will never vote to sanction their terrorist buddies. U.N. sanctions are a hapless illusion.

While the world talks, Iran test-fires missiles that could hit Israel, and they soon will have missiles that could hit Europe and the United States. Iran is the number one supplier of terrorism worldwide. A nuclear Iran is not an option. Peace-loving nations should sanction Iran's gasoline imports and encourage the Iranian people to change their reckless regime.

And that's just the way it is.

MARIANAS CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, remaining mindful of the heritage and tradition inherited from past generations is important to my people. Equally important is that we pass on these traditions to the generations that come after. For that reason, I rise today in recognition of Marianas Cultural Heritage Month from September 16 to October 12, 2009.

During this period, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are actively

demonstrating such local traditions as respect for our elders, indigenous methods for healing, the preparation of local foods, the wearing of traditional attire, the practice of sharing goods among neighbors and, of course, the remarkable navigational skills of our people, epitomized by Chief Aghurubw.

By demonstrating these traditions, we impart our knowledge of the legends and lore of our forefathers to future generations so they, in turn, will be able to transmit the unique culture and heritage of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. I encourage my colleagues to learn about us and to appreciate the differences that make us unique and the commonalities that bind us.

MORE TROOPS ARE NEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. As a former prisoner of war in Vietnam, I learned a lot about how not to fight a war. Specifically, you cannot run a war from the White House and win. General McChrystal declared that more troops are needed in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, this administration has backpedaled on its pledge to the region and now is dragging its heels on the general's request. What must our young men and women in uniform think? How must their loved ones back home feel? The administration's waiting game torpedoes troop morale and begs mission failure.

Congress needs to hear directly from General McChrystal to ensure political motivations in Washington don't override the needs of our commanders and our troops. For America, ignoring the top general's request for more troops is not the way to run and win a war.

HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Finding a uniquely American solution to our Nation's health care challenges means expanding health access to health coverage, containing costs, improving quality, and achieving better health outcomes. To reach these goals, we have to be open to new ways to bridge the current system's fragmentation, encourage coordination, and promote collaboration.

As part of health care reform, we are demanding greater quality and value. We should challenge our health care providers and civic leaders around the country to implement delivery system innovations that work for their communities. We should push them to work together and take responsibility for the health of people in their area across a full spectrum of health services. They can best determine how to

integrate their community's health care system to make it patient-centered, efficient and result in better care and improved health status.

We must establish clear expectations and accountability, offer financing flexibility and incentives to collaborate to meet patient and community needs, then monitor the results. I have introduced the Health Care Innovation Zone Program Act to spark these initiatives. Done right as part of health care reform, we will all benefit in saved lives and saved money.

IS AMERICA UNSINKABLE?

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, recent numbers from the White House Office of Management and Budget, featured in the ad behind me, predicts a Federal deficit of \$9 trillion over the next decade. Do we really think America is unsinkable? I urge you to visit defeatthedeath.com and learn more about exactly how serious the mounting debt and deficits are to every American. A television ad being run by the same group features an elementary school class citing the Pledge of Allegiance to America's debt and the Chinese Government that lends us money.

When will we wake up to how serious this problem is and take it seriously enough to deal with it? This Congress and this administration are failing the American people. We need to come together and sponsor the bipartisan Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission bill.

THE TSUNAMI THAT HIT AMERICAN SAMOA

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 months ago, Chairman NICK RAHALL and many of us on the House Committee on Natural Resources were with the wonderful people of the village of Leone, which is the home and family village of our colleague, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, who represents American Samoa in this body. Despite the severe economic challenges they face, they lavished us with gifts, song, food, and lots of love.

Today, villages all over American Samoa and other parts of the region are devastated not only by the damage from the tsunami but, most tragically, by the loss of loved ones. Among them, I am sure, are some who sang and danced and welcomed us so warmly. We thank the President for immediately declaring a disaster. I also pledge that my community will do what we can to help them recover. Many of their fellow Americans will do the same.

Nearby Independent Samoa, which I also visited at another time, was also affected and needs our help as well. Our

hearts and prayers go out to the people of American Samoa, Samoa and the region. If anything good can come out of this terrible tragedy, very importantly right now, perhaps it will remind everyone that the people of American Samoa and the other territories are Americans and deserve equitable treatment in health care reform.

IRAN IS A NUCLEAR THREAT

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, Iran has proven its threatening nature by conducting three rounds of missile tests, reminding us of the growing nuclear threat of Iran. Iran continues to show contempt towards the U.S. and the rest of the world through its nuclear development and the support of worldwide terrorism. Furthermore, it poses an existential threat to Israel, one of our most important allies.

Iran does not need to develop further nuclear fuel for energy, as it is a net exporter of oil even now. Rather than prepare for and deter this threat, the President has chosen to appease Moscow and Tehran by disabling a missile defense initiative with no concessions in return.

This reckless decision comes on the heels of the administration's double-digit cuts to missile defense funding and F-22 development. A Commander in Chief's first priority should always be national security, yet this decision is appeasement of current and potential enemies.

HEROES TO HOMETOWNS GOLF CLASSIC

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Tomorrow the American Legion will host the second annual Heroes to Hometowns Golf Classic at Andrews Air Force Base. This event will benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was established to provide educational support to children who have lost a loved one in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year's golf classic will bring together 80 wounded warriors and veteran business owners in what I'm sure will be a resoundingly successful event.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have seen the positive impact that events like this have on our wounded warriors. As a former college professor, I also know the impact that a college education makes in the lives of our children. This golf classic is just one more example of the incredible work that the American Legion does on behalf of our veterans and military families, and I wish all the participants a good day on the courses.

WATER ON THE MOON

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this past spring on one of my visits to the Johnson Space Center, I visited the facility where they house the lunar samples that we collected during the Apollo missions to the Moon. At that time, we had every reason to believe that the Moon was as dry as west Texas. But it turns out that is not the case. Three different spacecraft have confirmed unambiguous evidence that there is, in fact, water on the Moon. These are not pools or rivers or oceans like we know, but there are water molecules present.

Two robot probes in the nineties, Clementine and Lunar Prospector, suggested that water ice is present in the cold, dark areas of the poles. Now we find that water is much more pervasive. Water is essential for our astronauts when Americans return to the Moon, just like it was for our Founding forebearers Lewis and Clark when they immigrated west through the United States. Too many Americans closed the book on the Moon with our final Apollo mission in 1972. This finding tells us what we did know and, more importantly, what we don't know. There are still some things we don't know.

Our Nation needs to understand that it was the Apollo program that ended in 1972, not lunar exploration. This discovery proves that, in this regard, we have only just begun.

THE PEOPLE WILL LIKE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank one of our Republican colleagues. You see, I've been wondering how on the one hand the Republicans could try to scare our senior citizens with some nonexistent threat to their government program, Medicare, and on the other hand try to scare the rest of the American people about the threat of another government program, the public insurance option.

Well, yesterday Senator JOHN ENSIGN answered that question for me. Before the Senate Finance Committee, he said that he's opposing the public option because—get this—"People will like it." I kid you not. I wonder if, in fact, what he would rather do is give the American people a health care system they don't like. I know that many of our Republican colleagues would consider it a tragedy if we did something in this Congress that would actually restore confidence in government in the American people, but the real tragedy will be if we don't give the American people the health care system they want and deserve.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADMIRERS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House